

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS FOR AUSTRALIAN BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA)

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Abstract

New distribution records are provided for *Nacaduba biocellata* (C. & R. Felder), *Catopyrops florinda estrella* (Waterhouse & Lyell), *Theclinesstes serpentata serpentata* (Herrich-Schäffer) and *Catochrysops panormus platissa* (Herrich-Schäffer) [all Lycaenidae] from Broome, Western Australia, plus *Ocybadistes walkeri sothis* Waterhouse [Hesperiidae] from Stanley, Tasmania.

Introduction

Braby (2000), using notes and distribution maps, indicated the known distribution of all the Australian butterfly species then recorded. These maps were repeated in Braby (2004).

During July 2001 and February 2005, while holidaying in Broome, Western Australia and in Tasmania, respectively, several species were collected in localities that extend their previously known distributions.

New records

HESPERIIDAE

Ocybadistes walkeri sothis Waterhouse

One male was collected at Trethewies Lookout near Stanley, Tasmania, on 13.ii.2005. The Tasmanian distribution of this species was given by Braby (2000) as 'from sea level to about 230 m in the northern and eastern coastal areas, from Burnie to Bridport, and from Hobart to Lunawanna.' The above Stanley record extends the known distribution of *O. walkeri* Heron within Tasmania to some 80 km west of Burnie.

LYCAENIDAE

Nacaduba biocellata biocellata (C. & R. Felder)

Seven specimens were collected in Broome, WA: two males on 28.vii.2001, two males above Cable Beach on 27 & 29.vii.2001, one male and two females in the grounds of the Mercure Inn on 27.vii.2001. Braby (2000) indicated that this species 'occurs throughout most, and probably all, of mainland Australia ... [and] seems to be rarer in the tropics but has been recorded from near Mt Agnes in the Prince Regent River district, WA.' However, his distribution maps (Braby 2000, 2004) indicate that it has not been recorded previously within approximately 300 km of Broome.

Catopyrops florinda estrella (Waterhouse & Lyell)

Two males were collected in Broome, one on 30.vii.2001 and the other above Cable Beach on 29.vii.2001. This subspecies occurs sporadically across northern Australia, with the previous locality closest to Broome being north of the Edgar Range, ca 100-130 km SE of Broome (Braby 2000, 2004).

Theclinesthes serpentata serpentata (Herrich-Schäffer)

One male was collected in the grounds of the Mercure Inn, Broome, on 27.vii.2001. Braby (2000) noted that this species occurs 'throughout much of the mainland' but recorded it only as far north as Roeburne in Western Australia. The Broome record extends its distribution north by *ca* 600 km.

Catochrysops panormus platissa (Herrich-Schäffer)

Two males were collected above Cable Beach, Broome, on 29.vii.2001. In Western Australia this species 'occurs sporadically from the Mitchell Plateau and 12 km south of Kalumburu' (Braby 2000). The Broome record extends its distribution south by *ca* 600 km.

References

BRABY, M.F. 2000. *Butterflies of Australia: their identification, biology and distribution*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood; xx + 976 pp.

BRABY, M.F. 2004. *The complete field guide to butterflies of Australia*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood; x + 340 pp.